

REMARKS

The rejection of claims 6 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §112 ¶ 2, is deemed moot in light of the above amendments to the Specification to provide antecedent basis for claim 6 and to the amendment to claim 19.

In light of the indication of the allowability of claims 19-22, those claims should now stand allowed in light of the above amendments, including the re-writing of claim 19 into independent form.

The rejection of claims 1-8, 17, 18, 23, 25 and 27-30 as being anticipated by EP '799 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Although the EP '799 document shows a press machine 1 having a laser processor 12 in front thereof and being movable in at least two directions, the multiple directions take place all in one plane as seen best in Figs. 2 and 3. There is no teaching or suggestion that the laser processor is to be moved in multiple planes.

The present invention is one which provides free mobility for the local energy feed in all directions, that is in multiple planes as set forth in amended claim 1 above. As a result, the laser or beam machining can take place at almost any position

desired. No such teaching or suggestion is found in the EP '799 document.

For the same reasons, the rejection of claims 9-16, 24 and 26 as being unpatentable over Hashimoto et al under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed. Reconsideration is also requested on grounds that the Office Action does not set forth a prima facie case of obviousness based upon substantial evidence.

The Office Action notes several of the differences between the claimed subject matter and the EP '799 system. These difference cannot be overcome with mere assertions of obvious design choice for Official Notice or well known means without some evidentiary support in the record, particularly in light of the number of unsubstantiated changes which are suggested in the rejection of claims 9-16, 24 and 26.

In any event, these claims are either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 1 which, for the reasons set forth above, is deemed to be allowable over the EP '799 document. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action upon all of the claims in this application are earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #852/48375).

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT

(Marked-up version of amended Specification)

Page 7, lines 10-17, substitute the following paragraph:

Additional machining devices 7, by which energy can be fed locally into the workpieces 5, are situated between the forming stations 2 so as to be movable in a path-controlled manner relative to the workpieces. The machining devices 7 may be constructed as laser beam, water jet, plasma jet or sandblasting machining devices 7 or as machining devices 7 for charging electromagnetic energy, for example, by way of induction or conduction, and are in each case provided as a separate station in the forming system 1.

Page 13, line 22- Page 14, line 12, substitute the following paragraph:

Figure 7 illustrates a modification of the first laser machining device 7 of Figure 6 which can also carry out the above-described form cut on the workpiece 5. By way of a suction bridge 18, which is mounted on the guiding element 14 of the transport device 6 and has a pertaining suction spider 19, the

workpiece 5 is brought to the laser machining device 7. In this embodiment, the device 7 consists of four laser heads 12 which are displaceably mounted in a path-controlled manner on a cross traverse 20 which, in turn, can be displaced transversely to its dimension. The displaceability of the laser heads 12 is indicated by double-headed arrows. As a result, it is possible to machine the workpiece 5 fed from above already in a cutting manner when the suction bridge 18 has deposited the workpiece 5 above the cross traverse 20 and has not yet completely moved away from it. The suction bridge 18 and suction spider 19 elements are customary in forming technology and do not have to be discussed here in detail.

(Marked-up version of amended claims)

Please amend claims 1 and 19 as follows:

1. (Amended) A forming system for forming workpieces, comprising at least one forming tool, and at least one machining device with a local energy feed for machining the workpieces is [arranged] configured to be movable in multiple planes as a separate station within the forming system.

19. (Amended) [The] A forming system [according to claim 5] for forming workpieces, comprising at least one forming tool, and at least one machining device with a local energy feed for machining the workpieces is arranged as a separate station within the forming system, wherein the at least one machining device is provided with at least one machining element for machining the workpieces and is arranged within the at least one [of the] forming tool.